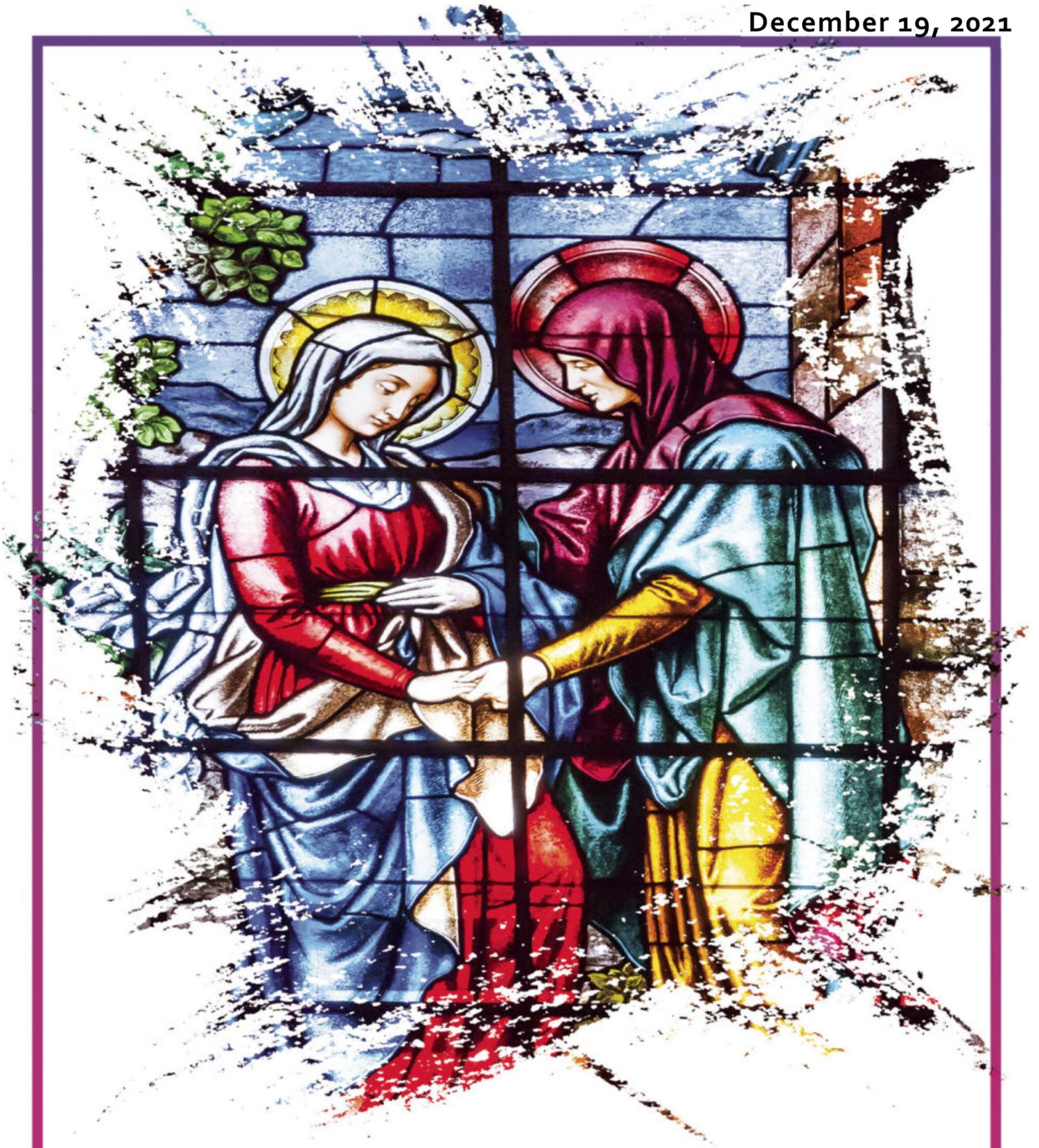


December 19, 2021



“BLESSED ARE YOU AMONG WOMEN, AND BLESSED IS
THE FRUIT OF YOUR WOMB.” - LK 1:42

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Tues.–Fri. 7:30 a.m. Mass • Sat. 3–4 p.m. Confessions & 4:30 p.m. Mass • Sunday 8:30 & 10:30 a.m. Mass & 11:45 a.m.–4 p.m. Adoration

MASS INTENTIONS

December 19, 4th Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. Patricia & Richard Dillont†

10:30 a.m. Holy Spirit community

December 20

December 21, St. Peter Canisius

7:30 a.m. Archbishop Hebda

December 22

7:30 a.m. Bishop-elect Williams

December 23, St. John of Kanty

7:30 a.m. Pope Francis

December 24, Christmas Eve

Note: Preludes start 30 minutes before each Mass.

4:30 p.m. Holy Spirit community

10 p.m. Holy Spirit community

December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

Note: No confession today.

9 a.m. Holy Spirit community

- Congratulations -

to our second graders who celebrated their First Reconciliation at the parish penance service!

YEAR-END GIVING

The holiday season and end of the year is a popular time for giving to charitable organizations, including Holy Spirit.

To process your donations, please note the following details to properly reflect donations on your 2021 giving record:

- Mailed contributions must be postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2021.
- Online contributions made using your bank account must be completed by 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29.
- Gifts made via credit card must be completed by 3 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 31.

Many employers have matching programs where your gift can be amplified through a gift from your employer. Please consider reviewing whether this is an option.

Gifts of Appreciated Securities (Stocks)

As 2021 ends, the stock market continues to remain strong. As a result, there may be financial advantages of donating via means other than traditional cash donations. This is easy to do! Make sure to consult with your financial advisor before making any financial decisions.

Required Minimum Distribution Funds (RMDs/QCDs)

Individuals who are required to take distributions from their pre-tax retirement plans before the end of the year can donate some or all the required distribution to Holy Spirit.

The parish office will be open on Wednesday, Dec. 29 for your convenience. You may also put your donation in the drop box by the gym entrance until Friday, Dec. 31. If you need assistance with year-end giving, especially stock transfers and matching gifts, email Father Haugan.

We are thankful for the gifts we receive this time of year! We rely on these generous contributions to support the ministries of our parish.



Celebrate Christ's Birth!

We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you and your loved ones as we rejoice in the birth of Jesus! Please join us for one of our Christmas liturgies:

Friday, Dec. 24 at 4:30 & 10 p.m.

Preludes start 30 minutes before each Mass

Saturday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.

- TODAY'S READINGS -

First Reading

You, Bethlehem-Ephrathah
too small to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel. (Mi 5:1)

Psalm

Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and
we shall be saved. (Ps 80)

Second Reading

"Then I said, 'As is written of me in the scroll,
behold, I come to do your will, O God.'" (Heb 10:7)

Gospel

"Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.
And how does this happen to me,
that the mother of my Lord should come to me?"
(Lk 1:42-43)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass
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- LIVE THE LITURGY -

Did you ever find yourself wishing that God would just step in and fix all that is wrong with the world? After all, how much longer can all of this go on? There is so much inequity in life. Our world's political, economic, and environmental systems do not always serve the best interests of people. We read stories about injustice, disregard for human life, greed, heartache, and people being hurt and deprived every day. People are still starving and there is often little regard for human life. This is not the way God intended it to be. Realizing that we have caused most of these problems ourselves, we look to God for an answer and a way out of the difficulties we have created. Taking responsibility for our actions is not something that comes easily. What we fail to see is that God has already sent the answer in the person of Jesus Christ. God did fix our problem! Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of Justice to come into the world. We need to do the same. It is only by believing in, listening to, and acting upon what God has spoken that true peace will ever come to be, and God's fix be made known.



4th Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45

Blessed Advent!

Today we have two mothers meeting; they are related, and one carries in her womb John the Baptist and the other woman, Mary, carries in her womb Jesus.

The Gospel account says that John, who would cry out in the desert the message that everyone needs to "prepare the way of the Lord," leapt with joy in the womb of his mother upon hearing Mary's greeting.

John's message in the desert is the message that we all need to heed as we get closer to the Christmas celebration. May our faith leap with joy at the chance to proclaim our Lord and to prepare the way!

Looking Ahead

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

Sunday, Dec. 26

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday, Jan. 1

Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 2

Mass: 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

AROUND THE ARCHDIOCESE

The Christmas Season and Beyond
Dec. 20, 6:30-8 p.m., Virtual Event

You are invited to attend a special evening to connect as we head into the holiday home stretch of 2021. Join us to encourage one another, boost our resiliency, and share our experiences in the different ways we create new and positive memories. To register, email Paula Kaempffer at kaempfferp@archspm.org.

A Journey to Joy:

Bringing Scripture to Life with Drama and Humor

Jan. 5-7, 7-8 p.m.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, Minnetonka

Nationally-acclaimed performer Frank Runyeon will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith. Each night the hour-long performance features one of the three topics. Frank, a Catholic, has advanced degrees in Religion and American Studies, but may best be known for his roles on television. Visit ihm-cc.org for more information!

No Ordinary Retreat

Jan. 12-14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Saint Joseph Church, Rosemount

Join us for a 3-day "No Ordinary Retreat" as we launch into Ordinary Time and look at how we can make the ordinary, day-to-day tasks, God-filled. Retreat will be led by Catholic speaker, Pat Millea. There will be a free-will offering for the retreat to support our youth summer programs. Register at stjosephcommunity.org/special-event/patmillea.

Miriam Dinner

Jan. 17, 6-8 p.m.

Archdiocesan Catholic Center, Saint Paul

Archbishop Hebda invites women, ages 16-35, who are discerning consecrated life to join him for dinner and conversation. Sister Mary Joseph, a Handmaid of the Heart of Jesus Sister, will lead the dinner program that will include consecrated women sharing their vocation testimonies, stories of consecrated life, and discernment tips. Registration is required; visit 1000vocations.org.



Baby Jesus' Wish List

Odds are you've got a Christmas list going by now — gift ideas for everyone from your nephew to your goddaughter to your mailman. But what about the birthday boy? What's the gift Jesus gets from you this Christmas?

If you've ever read the Book of Leviticus, you know all about the sacrifices God asks of the Israelites, referred to in the reading from Hebrews today. Leviticus can be a chore to read — a little repetitive, a little intimidating. There's a lot of very specific actions that God asks His Chosen People to complete to make up for whatever they have done wrong. In essence, it's a bit of a wish list for gifts.

But it's a wish list that can really confuse you. What's God going to do with a cereal offering? The kidneys of an animal? If you look closely, what God is doing here is beautiful. He's customized his wish list to only those things He knows the Israelites can give. It's God saying, in what amounts to theological baby-talk for folks who barely know of Him and His ways, exactly how they could be stewards. "Do this, but don't do that. If you do that, do this and you will find My mercy."

Our guide to stewardship — the Gospels of Christ — is less precise because by the time of Christ, God's people have grown in understanding of love and mercy and relationship with the divine. Through Christ, we find out that God's real wish list didn't really consist of cereal offerings and the kidneys of various animals. It's far simpler, but luckily, it's something we still have on-hand. All He wants is our whole heart.

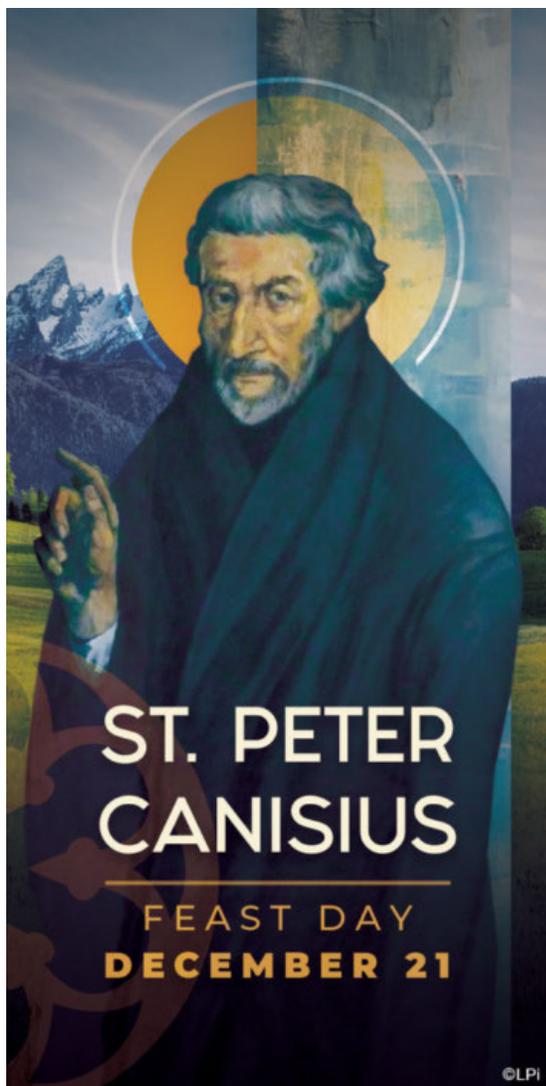
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

St. Peter Canisius | Feast Day December 21

Born in Holland, St. Peter Canisius (May 8, 1521 – December 21, 1597) was a preacher, teacher, and writer throughout his whole life. At the age of 19, he received a master's degree from the university at Cologne. Soon afterwards, St. Peter met Peter Faber, the first disciple of Ignatius of Loyola, who influenced him so much that he eventually joined the Society of Jesus.

St. Peter Canisius founded colleges and seminaries, served as a missionary, cared for the sick or imprisoned, and wrote close to eight volumes of letters — many about St. Cyril of Alexandria and St. Leo the Great.

A man blessed with many talents, St. Peter Canisius is a wonderful example of a man who developed his talents to further God's work here on earth.



- Gospel Meditation -

St. Augustine tells us that a “Christian is a mind through which Christ thinks, a heart through which Christ loves, a voice through which Christ speaks and a hand through which Christ helps.” As we look around and out at the world, we do not have to search too far before we come face to face with inequity and injustice. There is so much unfairness, prejudice, anger, hatred, violence, and want. The stories of human heartache, people being hurt, deprived of life's necessities, loneliness, and sickness are far too commonplace. For many of the world's ills, the vices of greed, lust, pride, gluttony, and jealousy are clearly among the more significant root causes.

Why doesn't God just step in and fix this mess? After all, God created this world, and one would hope that he would step up and take some measure of responsibility for it! Once we sit with this thinking for a while, we can begin to realize just how flawed it really is. God did take responsibility and God did fix the problem! God sent us Jesus Christ as the divine solution to the world's ills. It is not God who has shirked responsibility, we have. We are the ones who continually fail to set our own personal needs, wants, and securities aside so that One more powerful than us can use us.

Mary had to set her needs aside in order for the Son of God to come into the world. Put simply, Mary listened and believed. Having opened herself to being an instrument of the Divine, God could use her as his mind, heart, voice, and hand. She became God's vessel so that God's greatness could reach the ends of the earth and peace could come upon the world. God's fix for the world's difficulties is you and me. We are the ones who confess that Jesus Christ came into the world as the Son of God, the Prince of Peace, and herald of justice. All we have to do is believe, as did Mary, that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled. Then, we can step aside and be the Christians we claim to be. What a difference it would make if every person who professed to be Christian truly understood that their one and only vocation is to be God's instrument. What a beautiful, equitable, and just world it would be.

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